# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# MINORITY AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4579
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Developing Waqf Land for Commercial Use
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether huge acres of waqf land is lying vacant in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to develop this idle waqf land for commercial, use;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the revenue likely to be earned on the implementation of the proposal; and

(e) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

(a)&(b): According to Section 32(1) of the Waqf Act, 1995, the general superintendence of all Auqaf in a State vests in the State Waqf Board, established by the State/UT Government. It is the duty of the State Waqf Board to exercise its power under this Act and to ensure that Auqaf under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled and administered. Hence, the details of waqf land lying vacant in the country are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c)to(e): To facilitate development of commercially viable waqf properties, the Government of India has incorporated National Waqf Development Corporation Limited (NAWADCO) under Companies Act, 1956 on 31st Dec, 2013. The main objective of NAWADCO is to act as a specialized financial and developmental institution to develop and provide financial services for the development of waqf properties, identify, develop and implement projects directly or indirectly for commercial viability in order to enhance the income of waqf or achieving their objectives in the country together with Mutawallis, Waqf Boards, Trusts and Associations registered under the Waqf Act.

The development of the Waqf properties by NAWADCO depends on the availability of encumbrance free potential Waqf properties with the Waqf Institutions. NAWADCO has indentified 95 Waqf Properties for development. Expression of Interest for development in respect of 35 Waqf Properties from various State/UT Waqf Boards has been received. Karnataka Board of Waqfs has issued a General Power of Attorney for development of three Waqf properties at Bengaluru and executed a formal agreement with NAWADCO. Further, NAWADCO has also got feasibility and concept paper prepared for development of one property namely Takiya Chand Shah Waqf, Jodhpur.

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